After a lull of nearly three years, The Kooks have released their third studio album, *Junk of the Heart*. The album hit stores in the U.S. on September 13 and gave fans exactly what they had expected: a collection of cheerful, well written Kook’s songs.

The British band first rose to fame in 2006 with the release of their first album, *Inside In / Inside Out*. Singles such as “Naive” and “She Moves In Her Own Way” shot to the top of music charts, and the foursome were soon regarded as one of Britain’s greatest indie rock bands.

Their sophomore album, *Konk*, was released two years later and received much of the same success as the band’s first record, though it did not show many signs of a musical progression.

*Junk of the Heart* follows in a similar pattern. The album is nothing surprising, yet it retains the unmistakable elements of the band that have continually propelled them to stardom. Breezy pop songs, laid back lyrics, and acoustic guitars make it a likeable, yet typical product of The Kooks.

The album does, however, have a more modern sound, probably resulting from the band’s three month recording period in Los Angeles with new producers. Stand out songs include “Junk of the Heart (Happy),” “Is It Me,” and “Time Above the Earth.”

“Junk of the Heart (Happy)” opens the album and sets the tone for the remaining tracks. This upbeat song makes it clear that The Kook’s have set out to do what they do best: make a happy and enjoyable record.

Songs such as “Is It Me” and “Eskimo Kiss,” though a bit more low-key than the first track, have also become favorites among listeners. Luke Pritchard’s rusty, British accented vocals, guitar riffs, and ever present feel-good lyrics make it impossible to overlook these tracks, or any others on the new album.

Pritchard’s biggest diversion from the band’s usual sound is the song, “Time Above the Earth.” Classical violins provide the backdrop and Pritchard presents us with some of his more meaningful lyrics. Unfortunately, the song lasts for a mere two minutes, providing only a fleeting view of the band’s more developed sound.

Although the Kook’s have slightly refined their sound and performed a few experiments with *Junk of the Heart*, the overall impact of the album is not going to take anyone by storm. The music is enjoyable, however, and one can’t help but feel blissful after listening.

And perhaps it is their resistance to drastic change that makes the foursome so good. Fans get what they want from The Kooks, and after six years of monumental success together, keeping their style consistent and unchanged has paid off.